

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UR

SUBJECT: "VISIT USA" PROGRAM FOR USSR

REF: STATE 27233; 75 MOSCOW 18321

1. AFTER DETAILED DISCUSSION OF "VISIT USA" PROGRAM POSSIBILITIES WITH RESIDENT AMEXCO AND PAN AM REPRESENTATIVES, EMBASSY PORPOSES TO ESTABLISH "VISIT USA" COMMITTEE WITH FOLLOWING MEMBERS: ECON COUNSELOR, PRESS AND CULTURAL COUNSELOR, AMEXCO VICE PRESIDENT ROGER SCHMIDT, PANAM DIRECTOR ANTHONY DRAHORAD, RESIDENT MCGRAW-HILL CORRESPONDENT PETER GALL AND US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE. IN ABSENCE OF A SENIOR US CITIZEN MEMBER OF COUNCIL STAFF, REQUEST DEPARTMENT ASK HAROLD SCOTT, COUNCIL PRESIDENT IN NEW YORK, WHOM HE WISHES EMBASSY TO INVITE TO SERVE ON COMMITTEE. SOVIET VICE PRESIDENT HERE, MIKHAIL GRIBKOV, MAY BE REPLACED SOON. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT IN FUTURE SENIOR MEMBER OF COUNCIL'S MOSCOW STAFF WILL BE SOVIET CITIZEN AND SECOND-RANKING PERSON WILL BE AMERICAN.

2. FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF MOSCOW "VISIT USA" COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AS SOON AS PAN AM REP DRAHORAD RETURNS FROM CURRENT TRIP, EARLY IN WEEK OF MARCH 1. HOWARD CLARK'S OCTOBER 30 LETTER TO SECRETARY WILL FORM SUITABLE BASIS FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION. PRELIMINARY CONVERSATIONS WITH SCHMIDT AND DRAHORAD INDICATE CLEARLY THAT ITEMS (B), (D) (E), (F), (H), AND (I) IN PARA 3 CLARK LETTER WILL BE OF CONCRETE INTEREST TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS, WHILE

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ITEMS (A) AND (K) WILL BE JUDGED UNREALISTIC IN VIEW OF NATURE OF SOVIET TOURISM, AND ITEM (L) WILL BE REJECTED AS IRRELEVANT

TO PURPOSES OF "VISIT USA" CAMPAIGN. ITEM (H) WILL MAKE SENSE TO COMMITTEE IN SO FAR AS BOOTH IN USG-SPONSORED EXHIBITION AT INLEGMASH (TO BE HELD IN MOSCOW IN LATE MAY-EARLY JUNE) IS CONCERNED. SUCH BOOTHS WOULD HAVE NO COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE ELSEWHERE, GIVEN STRUCTURE OF SOVIET TOURIST INDUSTRY.

3. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN AMEXCO MAY PRESENT POTENTIAL PROBLEM FOR COMMITTEE OPERATIONS. LOCAL AMEXCO REPS HAVE NOTED THAT OF 566 SOVIET TOURISTS WHO VISITED US IN 1975, 494 TRAVELED AS MEMBERS OF TOUR GROUPS TAKING ONE OF SEVEN PLANNED ITINERARIES AMEXCO NOW OFFERS. AT PRESENT, INTOURIST IS UNWILLING TO PAY MORE THAN DOLS 40-45 PER DAY PER TOURIST IN ADDITION TO INTERCONTINENTAL AND INTERCITY TRAVEL. DOLS 10 PER DAY OF THIS SUM MUST BE GIVEN TO INDIVIDUAL SOVIET TRAVELER TO PAY FOR FOOD, AND REMAINING DOLS 30-35 MUST COVER LODGING, LOCAL TRANSPORT, SIGHTSEEING INCLUDING RUSSIAN SPEAKING GUIDES AND ENTRANCE FEES WHEN REQUIRED.

4. DURING DISCUSSION WITH INTOURIST PRESIDENT BOYCHENKO IN DECEMBER 1975 AMEXCO REP WAS TOLD THAT SOVIETS PLAN ON SENDING 450-600 TOURISTS TO US IN 1976. APART FROM INTOURIST, SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS WHICH GENERATE INTERNATIONAL TOURISM ARE CHIEFLY TRADE UNIONS. IN VIEW OF AFL/CIO ATTITUDES TOWARD USSR AND SOVIET LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, ANY TOUR GROUPS SPONSORED BY UNIONS HERE WOULD APPEAR TO REQUIRE CAREFUL IDENTIFICATION LABELLING THEM EXPLICITLY AS TOURISTS AND NOT LABOR DELEGATIONS.

5. EMBASSY WILL REPORT PROMPTLY ON MARCH "VISIT USA" COMMITTEE MEETING. IN MEANTIME, WOULD APPRECIATE SCOTT'S VIEWS ABOUT TRADE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEE.  
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## Message Attributes

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